



Transition Area Section

Regulatory Activities

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Introduction

To delay the long-distance spread of the gypsy moth, the policy of APHIS is to prevent the establishment of isolated infestations. Usually, isolated infestations result from artificial dispersal, not natural dispersal. Artificial dispersal is dispersal by human activity through the movement of infested articles, such as outdoor household articles and commercial products. Articles that are likely to be infested and moved are listed as Regulated Articles. Therefore, to prevent artificial movement, APHIS enforces quarantines on Regulated Articles, which are likely to be infested, when they are moved from infested areas to non-infested areas. Because sites in the Transition Area may be infested or will soon be infested, APHIS will conduct appropriate regulatory activities in the Transition Area.

Inspections in High-risk Areas

High-risk sites will require inspections under Compliance Agreements.

Several sites are by their nature high-risk:

- ◆ Nurseries
- ◆ Mills/Log yards
- ◆ Christmas tree plantations

Nurseries and Regulatory Activities

When infested nursery stock and plant products are distributed, it is extremely difficult to regain control of the situation. Therefore, nurseries in the Transition Area, particularly those that deal in preferred hosts, must be inspected often enough to ensure that infested material is not being shipped:

- ◆ At least once in the spring, after egg-hatch when the larvae would be feeding
- ◆ At least once in the fall, after egg-laying

Besides a visual examination of plant products and the growing plants, trapping should be done in the vicinity of the nursery to detect the presence of gypsy moth.

Some examples of plants and plant products that should be examined follow:

- ◆ Containerized plants
- ◆ Balled-in-burlap stock
- ◆ Garden structures (sheds, fences, posts, etc.)
- ◆ Bare-root stock (usually a minor problem)

Mills/Log Yards and Regulatory Activities

Mills often receive or ship timber with attached bark; in addition, mills often ship finished products, such as boards and posts, with attached bark. The attached bark may harbor egg masses. The mills must be under Compliance Agreements. Trapping is desirable near mills to detect the presence of the gypsy moth.

Logging Operations and Regulatory Activities

Logging operations must be surveyed under Compliance Agreements. During the examination of a logging site, examine both felled trees and standing trees to detect the presence of gypsy moth.

Christmas Tree Plantations and Regulatory Activities

Christmas tree plantations must be examined to detect the presence of gypsy moth. A common means of dispersal for the gypsy moth is the movement of Christmas trees infested with egg masses to non-infested areas.